

Remarks

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on November 13, 2003. Claims 1 and 2 have been canceled. Claim 2 has been rewritten in independent format, while claims 3-5 have been amended to depend from claims 6. In claim 6 the term "elastic" has been added. This additional term finds support at page 6, line 9 through page 7, line 1. Reconsideration and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Alff (U.S. Patent 4,948,277). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Claim 6 requires an elastic support wall which supports the sensor in a stable operating configuration suitable for detecting. This support wall is elastic and allows the sensor to directly face the encoder wheel, while also providing a cushioned connection between the sensor and the rolling bearing. (p. 6, l. 9 - p. 7, l. 1). This improves the quality of detection of the sensor, preventing disturbances from affecting the reading by the sensor.

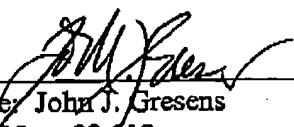
Alff fails to teach this aspect of claim 6. Alff teaches the use of an external surface support 17 having a depression in which the sensor is located. This rigid support fails to offer the cushioned connection offered by the elastic support of claim 6. As a result, shock and vibration of the rolling bearing are directly transferred to the sensor, decreasing the accuracy of the readings produced by the sensor. In addition, unequal heating of the rolling bearing results in unequal expansion, which further decreases the accuracy of the sensor. The elastic support of claim 2 eliminates these problems. For at least these reasons, claim 6 is not anticipated by Alff.

Claims 3-5 also depend from claim 6. Since claim 6 is in a condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully contend that for at least this reason claims 3-5 also contain allowable subject matter.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in the form of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,  
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